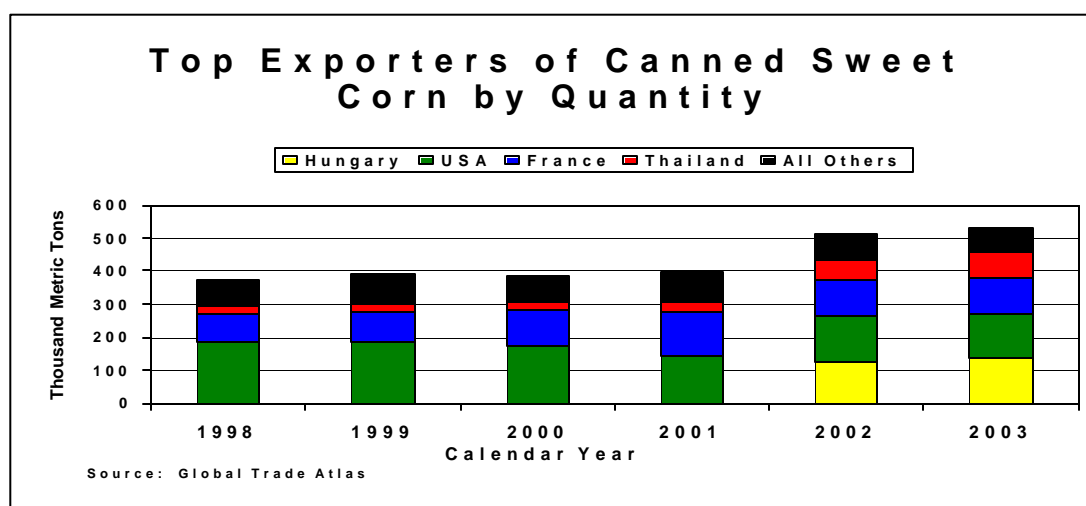


Processed Sweet Corn Situation and Outlook for Selected Countries

The United States, France, Hungary and Thailand are the world's largest producers and exporters of fresh and processed sweet corn. The United States is the world's largest exporter of canned sweet corn (CSC) with exports of 132,600 metric tons for 2003. However, Thailand is catching up with the United States.

U.S. exports in FY 2004, on the other hand, declined for the sixth consecutive year, falling 6 percent to the lowest level since 2003. In contrast, Hungary and Thailand's exports shares of canned and frozen sweet corn grew rapidly over this period. France remains the leading European producer of processed sweet corn, with 85 percent of total EU CSC production.

U.S. imports of CSC during 1994 to 2003 increased 152 percent to 24,429 tons. Canada accounted for 14,727 tons, while Thailand supplied 9,629 tons.



France

France is the leading European producer of canned and frozen sweet corn, and has a positive trade balance in these products. U.S. products face strong price competition from Hungarian products in the French market, especially since the EU grew to 25 member states. In addition, U.S. exports of sweet corn to France have suffered from consumer/retailer mistrust of biotech food products and from the recent implementation of the new EU traceability and labeling regulations regarding genetically modified organisms.

In 2003, production of CSC accounted for 85 percent of EU-15 canned sweet corn production and 69 percent of EU-15 frozen sweet corn production. Most of the French production is canned, to meet domestic consumption and export demand, while the frozen market is limited.

French exports of CSC decreased from 100,700 tons in marketing year (MY) 2002/03 to 93,700 tons in MY 2003/04. This resulted principally from increased competition from Hungary.

French production of frozen sweet corn (FSC) increased to 14,500 tons in 2003/04 from 10,200 tons in 2002/03. This production led to increased French FSC exports, mainly to the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Germany

In CY 2003, Germany produced 16,614 tons of FSC and 76,000 tons of preserved sweet corn. Compared to 2002, this is an increase of 25 percent for FSC and a decrease of 3 percent for CSC. France remains the main supplier of CSC to the German market with a share of 38 percent, followed by Hungary, with 37 percent, and Thailand with 15 percent.

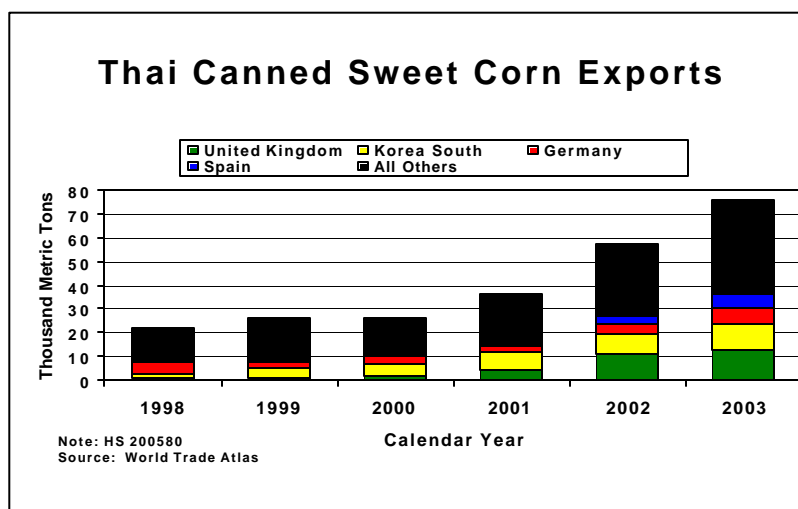
Hungary

Hungarian exports of CSC for 2003 were valued at \$119 million, an increase of 18 percent over 2002. In MY 2003/04, shipments to France from Hungary more than tripled. In CY 2003 Hungary supplied the German market with 37 percent of CSC.

Thailand

Production of CSC in Thailand in 2004 is estimated at 118,000 tons, up 31 percent from the previous year.

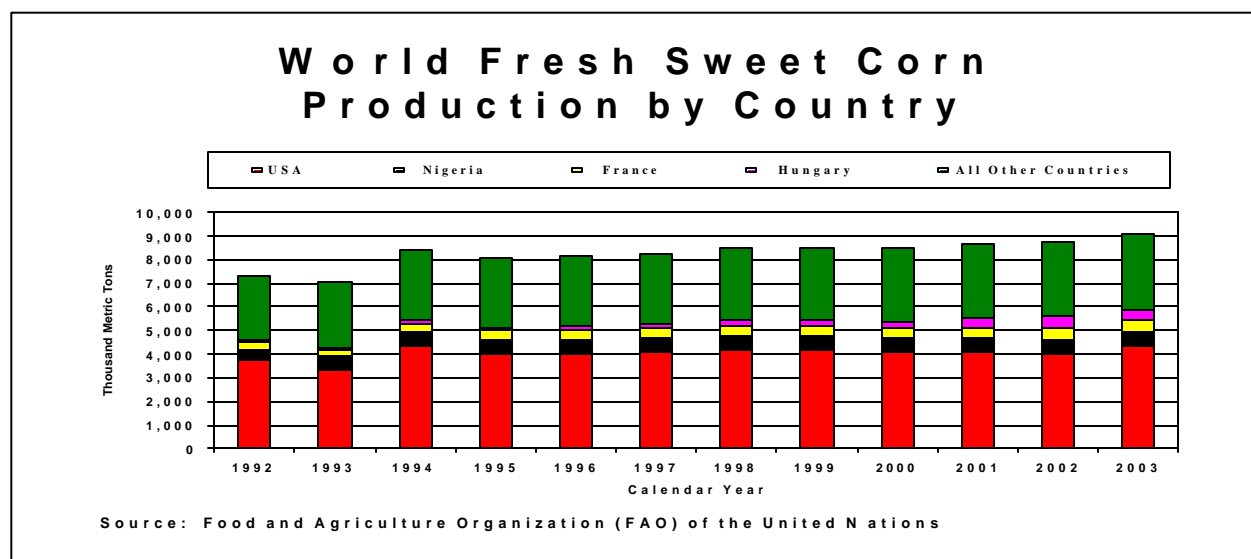
This production is attributed to intensive investments in contract farming, leading to bumper fresh corn crops over the past several years. For more information on Thailand, see the attaché report #TH4116.



United States

Production of sweet corn for processing in the United States in CY 2003 is estimated at 3.01 million tons, an 8 percent increase from 2002. The United States combined production of fresh and processed corn in 2003 reached 4.4 million tons. The United States CSC accounted for 33 percent of total U.S. sweet corn production during 2001-03.

In 2003, area harvested for fresh-market sweet corn reached a record high 247,590 acres, and production also set a new standard at 1.3 million tons. During 2001-03, Florida was the leading producer of fresh sweet corn with 20 percent of the U.S. crop. California (17 percent), New York (14 percent), Georgia (11 percent) and Ohio (5 percent) complete the top five producing states. Sweet corn for processing is grown primarily in the states of Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon.



(The FAS attaché report search engine contains reports on the selected vegetable industries for selected countries and can be found at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp>. For information on production and trade, contact Luis Cervantes at 202-720-9125. For information on marketing, call 202-720-7931. Also see the vegetable webpages at www.fas.usda.gov/http/commodity_pages/vegetables/veg_fresh.html and www.fas.usda.gov/http/commodity_pages/vegetables/veg_proc.html)